

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Suitland Federal Center, FOB4 Survey Number: PG:75A-24

Project: Boiler Installation in FOB4 Agency: GSA

Site visit by MHT Staff: ☐ no ☒ yes Name Anne E. Bruder Date 12/98

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
☐ None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

In 1994, GSA determined that FOB4 (MHT #PG:75A-24) to be ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its 1947 construction date. However, a review of our files for the Suitland Federal Center indicates that on May 5, 1998, the Trust concurred with the Maryland State Highway Administration's (SHA) April 3, 1998 determination that FOB4 is now eligible, ~~as a contributing resource to the Suitland Federal Center Survey District~~. We agreed with SHA's determination because the building is now fifty years old, and it meets the requirements of National Register criteria A and C. This is demonstrated in that the building continues the original 1940s design aesthetic of stripped classicism and the International Style of FOB3 (PG:75A-22). Although a 1960s addition enlarged the original building, since the wing closely matches the 1947 portion in material, size and color, it does not detract from the historic portion of FOB4. Indeed, the 1960s addition exemplifies the International Style's design goal of producing modules which could be repetitively added to a single building. As for Criterion A, FOB4's 1947 construction suggests the United States Government's continued need for decentralized government services in the Washington, D.C. suburban area. Based on its construction date, and the fact that it meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places, FOB4 is eligible for inclusion in the National Register, ~~as a contributing element to the Suitland Federal Center District~~.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Compliance Review Files and MIHP forms and photographs by SHA

Prepared by: Jill Dowling, SHA

Anne E. Bruder July 30, 1998
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ not applicable

B. Kuntz 7/30/98
Reviewer, NR program Date

gms

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT**I. Geographic Region:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
<input type="checkbox"/> Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

<input type="checkbox"/> Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
<input type="checkbox"/> Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Period (<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> historic)	

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Subsistence
<input type="checkbox"/> Settlement
<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Demographic
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government/Law
<input type="checkbox"/> Military
<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Educational/Cultural
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban development

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Government Office Building

Known Design Source: Government Architect's Office

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Federal Office Building 4 Survey Number: PG:75A-24

Project: Section 110 investigations Agency: F/GSA

Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Federal Office Building (FOB) 4 is a large, three story flat-roofed masonry office building constructed in 1947 by the Public Buildings Administration of the Federal Government as part of the Suitland Federal Center in Suitland, Maryland. FOB 4 was the third building constructed within the complex; the complex itself was part of one of the first Federal decentralization program which moved federal offices into the Washington suburbs in Maryland and Virginia. The original E-shaped building is characterized by double loaded corridors and a symmetrical facade dominated by a central entrance block. The modern office design is represented in its materials (poured in place concrete), fenestration and configuration. Substantial alterations have occurred to the building including the construction of a substantial fourth wing in 1960 which comprised the building's architectural integrity. Since the building is less than fifty years old, it must possess exceptional significance to be NR eligible. GSA determined that the building was not eligible, the Trust concurred.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Suitland Federal Center Historic

Compliance Section 110 and 106 Compliance, Prince George's County, Maryland

Prepared by: R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates

Lauren Bowlin November 18, 1994
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ not applicable

A. Anderson 11-21-94
Reviewer, NR program Date

Survey No. PG:75A-24

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

 Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
X Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,
 Prince George's and St. Mary's)
 Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,
 Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
 Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

 Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
 Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
 Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
 Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
 Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
 Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
 Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
 Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
 Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
 Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
 Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
X Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
 Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

 Subsistence
 Settlement
 Political
 Demographic
 Religion
 Technology
 Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

 Agriculture
X Architecture, Landscape Architecture,
 and Community Planning
 Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
X Government/Law
 Military
 Religion
 Social/Educational/Cultural
 Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): government office building

Known Design Source: George Howe, Supervising Architect Public Building

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM**

Suitland Federal Center - Federal Office Building 4

STATE
MARYLAND

COUNTY
PRINCE GEORGE'S

TOWN OR VICINITY
SUITLAND

HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)
FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING 4 (GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION)

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES NO. (MIHP)
PG:75A-24

SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE
FOB-4

COMPLETE ADDRESS
Silver Hill Road, SUITLAND FEDERAL CENTER

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
1947

SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)
Component of First Suburban Federal Office Complex

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)
International

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)
Reinforced concrete clad in running bond beige brick

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)
Originally: 434 foot long head house with three parallel wings projecting 319 feet from the head house

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE
Flat roof houses multiple satellite dishes

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)
none; see floor plans

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES
none

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE
Federal Offices

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE
See MIHP file

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Suitland Federal Center Historic Preservation Compliance Section 110 and 106 Compliance,
March 30, 1992, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.

COMPILER, AFFILIATION
Brooks Barwell, Cultural Resource Specialist, EDAW, Inc.

DATE
5/20/2003

NOTES

1. For conditions and details of return air grilles in walls see sheet 27-132, 27-133, 27-134 & 27-135.

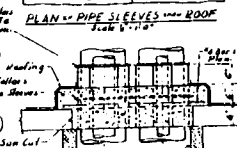
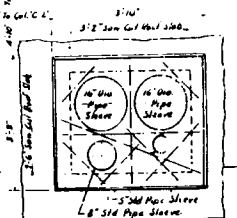
2. For details of return air grilles in walls see sheet 27-132, 27-133, 27-134 & 27-135.

SECTION 11

SECTION 12

MOUNTING DETAIL - FIXTURE "D"

Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

PROJECT NO.	41
DATE	10/1/54
DESIGNED BY	W. H. H. H.
CHECKED BY	W. H. H. H.
APPROVED BY	W. H. H. H.
PROJECT NO.	41
DATE	10/1/54
DESIGNED BY	W. H. H. H.
CHECKED BY	W. H. H. H.
APPROVED BY	W. H. H. H.
PROJECT NO.	41
DATE	10/1/54
DESIGNED BY	W. H. H. H.
CHECKED BY	W. H. H. H.
APPROVED BY	W. H. H. H.

27-139

WING 3

WING 2

WING 1

THIRD FLOOR PLAN

Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

NOTE: ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE TO CENTER OF PIPE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

24X

PG. 754-24

Suitland Federal Center
HABS Photo Key

FOB-4

FOB-3

FOB-3: (MIHP#PG:75A-22)

- 3-1-Front Elevation
- 3-2& 3-2A-Rear Elevation
- 3-3-East Side Elevation
- 3-4-West side Elevation
- 3-5-Document 1 rear court
- 3-6-Major entrance
- 3-7&3-8-Secondary entrances (2)
- 3-9-Lobby
- 3-10-Typical Corridor

FOB-4: (MIHP#PG:75A-24)

- 4-11-Front
- 4-12-Rear
- 4-13-East side
- 4-14-West side
- 4-15-Rear Court
- 4-16-Entrance Detail
- 4-17-Lobby
- 4-18-Underground tunnel
- 4-20-Main Entrance

Suitland
House



MIHP # PG. 75A-24

SVITLAND FEDERAL CENTER

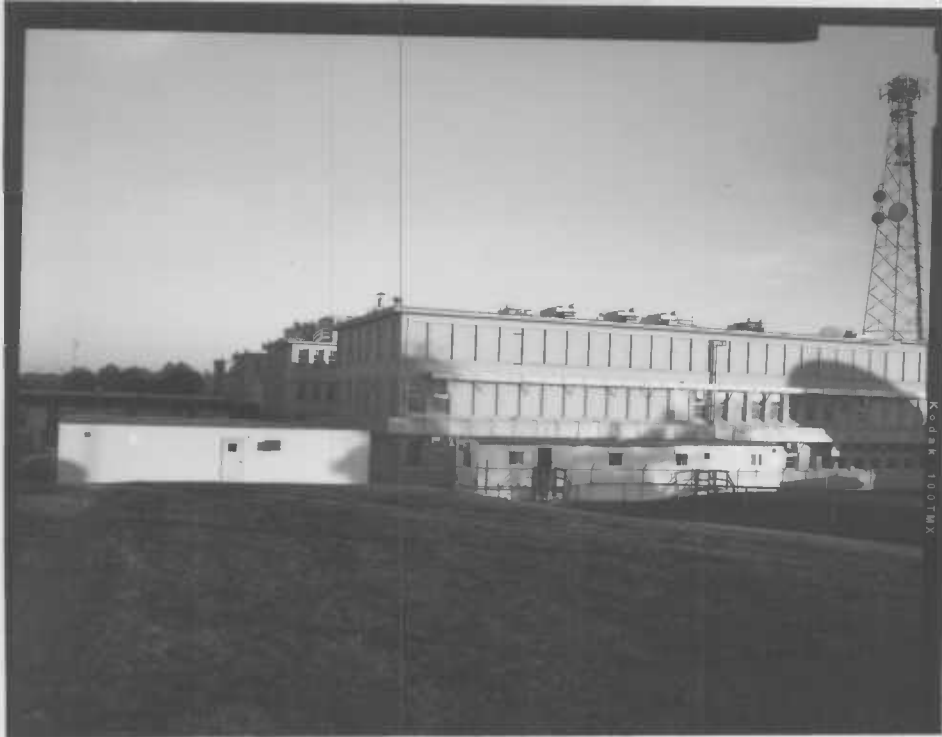
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHIC WASTE SHREDDING

11/02 MD SHPO

FRONT F03 4-11

4-11



Kodak 100TMAX

MIRPA PC. 75A-24

SUITLAND FEDERAL CENTER

PHOTOGRAPHER: WALTER SHAWING

11/02 MOSHPJ

REAR ELEVATION F08 4-12



MIKPAFG-75A-24

SUTLAND FEDERAL RESERVE

PRIOR GEORGES COUNTY, MD

PHOTOGRAPH BY WALTER SMITH

11/02 MD SRPU

EAST ELEVATION FOB 4-13

4-13



KODAK 100TMY

MIKPA PG. 75 A-24

SUITLAND FEDERAL CENTER

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHER: WALTER SMALLING

11/02 MDSKPO

WEST ELEVATION FOR 4-14

4-14



MIKPA PG : 75A-24

SUITLAND FEDERAL CENTER

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHIC WALTER SHALUNG

11/02 MDSHPJ

READ CONT FOR 4-15

4-15



MHP#PG: 75A-24

SUITLAND FEDERAL CENTER

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHER: WALTER STALLING

11/02 MOSHPJ

ENTRANCE DETAIL (w) FEB 4-16

4-16



MINP# P6: 75A-24

SVITLAND FEDERAL CENTER

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHIC: WALTER SMALLIN

11/02 MDSKPO

ENTRANCE DETAIL (F) FOB 4-16A

4-16A



MIHP# PG. 75A-24
SUTLAND FEDERAL CENTER
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHER: WALTER SHALLING

11/02 MDSHPD

LOBBY FEB 4-17

4-17



MHP096-75A-24

SVITLAND FEDERAL CENTER

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY, MD.

PHOTOGRAPHIC: WALTER SMALLING

11/02 MDSKPU

UNDERGROUND TUNNEL

F08-18

4-18

DEPARTMENT
OF
COMMERCE

BUREAU OF THE
CENSUS
NATIONAL OCEANIC
AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL ICE CENTER
NATIONAL SEA CENTER

MIHPHPS: 75A-24

SUITLAND FEDERAL CENTER

PRINCE GEORGES, DIST. MD.


PHOTOGRAPHIC WALTER SMOULDER

11/02 MDSHPD

MAIN ENTRANCE

FOB 4-20

4-20



MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. PG: 75A-24

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Federal Office Building No. 4

and/or common FOB-4 (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Silver Hill Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Suitland ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name United States of America

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 615

street & number folio 443

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title n/a

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. ^{P.C.}75A 24

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See attached continuation sheets.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG: 75A-24

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1947 **Builder/Architect** Gilbert Stanley Underwood (Supervising Architect)

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See attached continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG-75A -

See attached continuation sheets.

-29

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name AnacostiaQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Deborah Cannan and Michelle Moranorganization R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. date July 26, 1991street & number 337 East Third Street telephone (301) 694-0428city or town Frederick state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PG 175A-24

Summary

Federal Office Building No. 4 (FOB-4) is a large, three-story, flat-roofed masonry office building constructed in 1947 by the Federal Government as part of the Suitland Federal Center in Suitland, Maryland. The original E-shaped plan includes double-loaded corridors and a symmetrical facade dominated by a central entrance block. This entrance contrasts with the overall horizontality of the building. In 1960, a fourth wing was added to FOB-4. This wing was constructed of compatible materials, however, it altered the symmetry of the principal elevation. FOB-4 is an example of mid-twentieth century modern office design situated in a campus office complex.

Description

The original FOB-4 building adopts an E-shaped plan, composed of a the main headhouse extending 434 feet and three parallel wings projecting 319 feet to the north (see attached floor plan). Enclosed pedestrian bridges span the open-ended courtyards between the wings. Constructed of poured-in-place reinforced concrete clad in running-bond beige brick, the building utilizes structural column bays of 20 feet. A flat roof trimmed by a shallow projecting cornice tops the three-story building. Above the entrance on the headhouse roof stands a mechanical penthouse, set back 20 feet from the cornice line.

Rows of double-hung sash, wood-frame windows framed by bands of precast concrete lintels and sills line the primary south, east, and west elevations. The concrete bands create strong shadow lines which add depth to the otherwise flat wall surface. Single windows outside of the concrete bands mark the corners of the original building. The courtyard elevations have a higher percentage of glazed wall surface. Twelve-light, steel-frame, awning windows with two-light center hinged panels are arranged in sets of three on the courtyard elevations. Five bays of four-light, steel-frame, awning windows with hinged two-light center panels mark the service core of stairs and bathrooms at the center of each wing. These windows differentiate service space from office space.

Bands of precast concrete lintels and sills also frame the windows of the courtyard elevations. Sets of six two-light, steel frame awning windows framed in precast concrete provide light for the pedestrian bridges. Pairs of the wood sash windows flank a column of steel awning windows on the end wing elevations.

The entrance block, centrally located on the principal elevation of the original structure, is the focal point of the building. Twelve-foot, blind stair towers project 7 feet from the wall surface of the headhouse flanking the entrance. An angled concrete slab shelters the recessed three-bay entrance and intersects with the stair towers. Six bays of windows, two above each door, rise above this cantilevered canopy. Strips of brick divide the window bays; two pierce the canopy, forming piers that separate the entrance bays. The piers and base of the entrance block are clad in granite. Slate panels above, below, and between the windows accentuate the verticality of the entrance block. These panels contrast with the building's overall design horizontality. Two terra cotta panels depicting stylized waves and a marker reading "No. 4" are found on either side of the doors. A granite panel identifies the government officials under and by whom the building was designed. The date depicted, 1945, reflects building design not construction.

The plan of the building consists of interior, double-loaded corridors with offices located on both exterior walls. This plan provides natural light to the offices from the expansive window system. Stairs, constructed of concrete, are located within the stair towers in the lobby, at the mid-points and ends of the original three wings, and at the end of the 1960 wing. The end elevations of the original three wings include glazed, metal, double doors with concrete canopies; the column of steel-frame awning windows mark the location of the stairs. The building elevator is located in the main lobby.

The lobby incorporates interior finishes similar to those found in FOB-3. Two sets of glazed, metal, double doors provide access to the lobby. Pink terrazzo tile with steel divider strips covers

the lobby floor. Beige ceramic tile with brown ceramic tile base line the walls. Acoustic tiles suspended from a metal grid forms the ceiling.

The walls of the headhouse corridors are painted concrete block. Painted gypsum board sheaths the interior walls of the wings. Vinyl tile covers the corridor floors. Flush wood doors without transoms open from the corridors into the offices.

In 1960, the Federal government extended the headhouse by 24 bays and added a wing to the west side of FOB-4. Designated "Wing O," the addition, constructed of pre-cast concrete, matches the size and exterior cladding of the original structure. It repeats the window types found on the original building. The majority of subsequent alterations to FOB-4 consisted of changes to wing O; the roof and interior partitions were replaced several times. In 1972, a one-story, temporary, modular, steel building was erected in the courtyard between wings 2 and 3. In 1972, windows on the west elevation of wing O were infilled with brick to accommodate new computer areas. Currently, the majority of the windows on the west and east elevations are brick-filled.

Part of a campus-style office complex, FOB-3 faces Swann Road, a curving, interior road linking the buildings of Suitland Federal Center. In contrast with the geometric lots found in Washington, D.C., Federal planners designed Suitland with an irregular plan, including large amounts of open space and parking areas. The plan focused the buildings toward the interior of the site, away from the existing community. The widely spaced buildings have a minimum of landscaping, consisting mostly of grassy areas and a few mature trees.

Location: Western Shore
Prince George's County
Time Period: Modern Period, 1930 - present
1940s
Themes: 1. Architecture
Federal Architecture
2. Community Planning and Development
Suburbanization
3. Government/Law
Expansion of the Federal Government

Summary

The Public Buildings Administration built Federal Office Building No. 4 (FOB-4) in Suitland, Maryland to serve as general office space or records storage in 1947. It was the third Federal office building constructed at the Suitland Federal Center. The Suitland Federal Center was part of one of the first Federal decentralization program. Under this program government offices were constructed in the Washington, D.C. suburbs. This construction contributed to the transformation of suburban areas from bedroom suburbs to large employment centers. The expansion of Federal government offices marks a critical period in the historical development of the Maryland suburbs, as well represents as a significant historical theme within the context of the growth of the Federal Government. Architecturally, FOB-4 typifies the adoption of Modernism by the PBA under Supervising Architect and later Deputy Commissioner for Design and Construction, George Howe.

FOB-4 was constructed less than 50 years ago and does not possess qualities of exceptional significance. While the architecture of FOB-3 is representative of the final phase of a well-documented style of Federal architecture, stripped classicism, FOB-4 exemplifies the Federal building program's switch to mid-twentieth century modernism. Fewer examples of this style have been studied. An architectural theme of mid-twentieth century architecture must be developed in order to evaluate FOB-4's potential to represent its resources type and period. Sufficient historical perspective presently does not exist to evaluate the structure within that context.

CRITERION A:

Government

The expansion of the U.S. Federal Government is reflected in the development of the nation's capital in Washington, D.C. City population figures and settlement patterns closely mirror the propagation of government agencies and their increasing need for office space. Washington emerged as a major population and employment center during the twentieth century, as proliferating government agencies required a larger work force and associated space.

During the early 1900s, the mounting demand for housing and transportation in the District of Columbia encouraged development away from the city's center. The pace of residential construction was interrupted by the United States' declaration of war against Germany in 1917. Civil servants employed by various war bureaus inundated the District. During World War I, the population of Washington increased 50 per cent. Temporary stucco buildings were erected in all areas of the city to house both government agencies and Federal workers (Froncek 1977:353). With the end of the war, Federal offices dismissed nearly 16,000 wartime employees. However, many people remained in the city, swelling the number of permanent residents nearly 25 per cent between 1917 and 1920 (Green 1967:198).

The Depression and following wartime expansion prompted President Roosevelt to augment the number of Federal programs and properties both in the District and throughout the nation. Population figures climbed higher as the confines of the District grew crowded with Federal agencies and their workers. Many Federal agencies, especially those associated with the military, were forced to inhabit leased space and temporary structures throughout the D.C. area (Brinkley 1988:72).

As government offices became congested, Roosevelt grew concerned over the lack of space. Under the plan of decentralization, civilian agencies that were not essential to the war effort

were relocated. More than 21,401 employees were moved out of the city, freeing two million square feet of office space for military bureaucracies (Brinkley 1988:121).

In 1939, Commissioner W. E. Reynolds of the Public Buildings Administration initiated a survey of bordering Maryland and Virginia to identify possible sites for Federal expansion close to the District (Star March 15, 1941:A-20). The 1941 acquisition of the Suitland property was a direct result of this survey. The PBA intended to erect eight office buildings on the property for agencies with an intense need for space. Clerical workers were expected to fill the buildings, allowing key agency officials to remain in downtown Washington (Star March 16, 1941:A-9). The completion of FOB-3 in 1942 marked the realization of the first decentralization program effort in suburban Maryland.

During the 1930s and 1940s, the number of civilian Federal workers soared from 500,000 to more than 2,000,000. Instead of scaling back the bureaucracy following World War II, the Federal Government continued to expand (Craig 1978:438). Under the recommendations of the Hoover Commission on government reorganization, the GSA was formed in 1949 to manage the massive agglomeration of Federal properties, structures, and records. Throughout the ensuing 40 years, the GSA managed the construction of Federal buildings in Prince George's and Montgomery counties for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, and Energy. Today, the GSA continues to manage and maintain buildings in the Suitland Federal Center.

Maryland Suburbanization

Agriculture dominated the economy of Prince George's County throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. During the twentieth century, the county was the largest tobacco-producer in the state. This pattern of agricultural land use first began to change in the northwest section of the county along the streetcar lines, which brought the first large numbers of suburban residents to the county in the 1890s. Suburban communities such as Mt. Ranier, Brentwood, and

Cottage City developed along the trolley lines. Older towns on the railroad line, College Park and Hyattsville, also grew.

Suburbanization did not dominate the county until the 1930s. In that decade, county population increased fifty per cent, rising from 60,000 to 90,000 residents. The growth of the Federal work force supplied the people, while the automobile allowed them to reside in areas not served by trains or trolleys. The establishment of Federal installations in the 1940s, such as Suitland Federal Center and Andrews Air Force Base, promoted residential and commercial growth in the central and southern regions of Prince George's County. During the 1960s, more than 10,000 apartment units were constructed in the Suitland vicinity. Population growth continued unabated until 1970 when it slowed to a more modest rate. As of 1988, Prince George's County was the most populous county in Maryland and claimed a residential population size rivaling that of Baltimore City.

Site-Specific History

Federal Office Building No. 4 (FOB-4), built in 1947, is located on a portion of 20 tracts in Suitland, Maryland condemned and purchased by the Federal Government during the summer of 1941. The acquisition was part of a Federal plan to combat congestion in Federal offices in the District of Columbia by establishing complexes for government agencies in the Maryland and Virginia suburbs. In 1939, the Commissioner of Public Buildings, W. E. Reynolds conducted a survey of sites suitable for new Federal office buildings in Maryland and Virginia. Two sites were chosen; one in Arlington, Virginia for offices for the Navy and a second in Suitland, Maryland.

Construction of the first of the buildings of the new "Federal City," Federal Office Building No. 3 (FOB-3), began in 1941. The structure, designed to house 5,000 clerical workers, was not built for a specific government agency, but was instead designed as general purpose office space. The Public Buildings Administration (PBA) assigned the new building to the Census Bureau. FOB-3 was completed in 1942 at a cost of \$6,000,000.00. A dedication ceremony on August 13 noted that

the opening of the structure marked the completion of one of the first Federal decentralization programs (Washington Star, August 13, 1942:A-6). That same year, the Naval Hydrographic Office was constructed at Suitland, adjacent to FOB-3, on the southwest.

The departure of Federal offices from Washington, D.C. and the expansion of the national government continued, requiring still more office space in the new Federal center. In 1945, the PBA requested permission from the Office of Civilian Requirements to build a third office building at Suitland. Because of a war economy still operated, their application was rejected. However, two years later, the PBA began and completed FOB-4 on the northwest side of FOB-3. Designed so that it could be used either for records storage or general office space, the PBA first intended FOB-4 to house the overflow of workers from the nearby Census Bureau and Navy Hydrographic Office, but then allocated it for storage of Census Bureau and National Archives records (Washington Star April 13, 1947:A-22).

In 1949, the Appropriations Committee turned down a request from PBA for funds to erect another building at Suitland intended for use by the Census Bureau. The next office building built at Suitland, NIC-2 in 1958, did not utilize the beige brick, open-ended courtyard plans, or sash windows of the three 1940s buildings. Thus, FOB-4 was the last building built as part of the initial phase of development of the Suitland Federal Center and is part of an architecturally unified trio of Federal office buildings.

The construction of large Federal complexes outside of the District of Columbia is a significant series of events both in the development of the Federal Government and in the development of suburban Maryland. However, most of the structures contained within the complex are less than 50 years old and date from the most recent period of construction. Sufficient historical perspective does not exist at this time to support an evaluation of exceptional significance for the Suitland Federal Center. FOB-4, though it dates from the initial period of construction, is also less

than 50 years old and cannot be categorized as exceptionally important. FOB-3 better illustrates the historical themes represented by FOB-4.

CRITERION C:

Architectural Context

During the 1930s, a recognizable architectural style drawn from the traditions of classicism and nascent modernism emerged. These designs exerted a dominant influence in Federal architecture for the next decade. In the early twentieth century, classicism was the primary source in Federal architecture. The McMillan Commission advocated classical architecture and Beaux-Arts planning for the monumental core of Washington, D.C.; the Federal Triangle office complex was the major achievement stemming from this emphasis on classically-inspired design.

In contrast to classicism, modernism stressed functionalism over symbolism, and simplicity over ornament. The convergence of these two design philosophies has been called variously "stripped classicism" (Huxtable 1986:292 and Stern 1988:44), and "starved classical" (Craig 1978:331). Stripped classicism, which combined classical symbols with functionalism and that was characterized by massive scale, flat detailing, masonry construction, and the use of minimalist classical elements, came to be strongly associated with Federal architecture. A debate over modernism dominated discussions of public architecture until the 1950s, when modernism, uninfluenced by vestigial classicism, began to be the ubiquitous image of Federal architecture (Craig 1978:282). A specific building type, the large government office building, also emerged during the early twentieth century. Office building design received attention in Washington, D.C. as the Federal government commissioned and built large office buildings within and near the monumental core of the city to house expanding Federal agencies. Examination of two of Washington's widely publicized large office buildings, the 1917 and 1936 Interior Buildings, illustrates the office designs influencing FOB-3.

Among the first buildings in the capital that was designated as a modern office building was the old Interior Building (1914 - 1917). It devoted a minimum of space to ceremonial public areas, such as lobbies, instead placing most of its floor area in office space designed to have adequate light and ventilation. The plan included a main corridor with projecting wings forming an E-shape. The design of the new Interior Building (1935 - 1936) drew from its predecessor's plan, also incorporating a central corridor with projecting wings. The Secretary of the Interior criticized the design of the recently completed Federal Triangle buildings for their wasted space, "extravagant" columned facades, and enclosed light courts, which he found inferior to the open-ended courtyards of the old Interior Building (Look 1986:14). Other significant innovations in the 1936 Interior Building were spacious double-loaded corridors that provided windows in each office and corridor access, moveable office partitions, acoustically-treated ceilings, and fireproof design (Look 1986:13 - 14).

A survey published in 1939 of the results of the PWA building program illustrates the increasing concern with functionalism in government-sponsored architecture. While the PWA did not mandate an official architectural style, and although it financed many projects exhibiting traditional and regional stylistic influences, the authors of the survey clearly preferred modern architecture, defined as "the evolving style of the present time, which is based on evolutions from other styles of architecture and on changes that have developed in needs, requirements, and construction" (Short and Stanley-Brown 1939:I). Functionalism was stressed over ornament, decoration, and association with historic architectural styles. Ornamentation was viewed as detracting from the aesthetic value of buildings; the structure of the building as reflected in the exterior design became an architectural aesthetic. The authors of the PWA study identified the accomplishments of Federal building projects as "the elimination of waste space, economy in cost, and proper consideration of light, ventilation, and sanitation; while in design, careful study of line, scale, and proportion, greater simplicity, and an extremely sparing use of ornament, and a skillful and effective handling of materials" (Short and Stanley-Brown 1939:II).

These tenets are sympathetic with those of another strain of modernism, the rising International Style, which appeared in the United States in the 1930s. The use of pure forms, volumes wrapped in thin skins of plastic materials, repetitive elements, and diminished ornamentation or historical references distinguish International Style buildings. As International Style came to dominate American architectural schools, after World War II, stripped classicism became characterized as reactionary. Contemporary architectural critics have viewed it as a "robust and inventive movement within the tradition of modern classicism" (Stern 1988:44).

FOB-4

Against this background of developing styles and building types, the Public Buildings Administration (PBA) of the Federal Works Agency, the successor agency to the Public Works Administration (PWA), produced the design for Federal Office Building No. 3 in 1941. The Supervising Architect of the PBA, Louis A. Simon, spent most of his career in government service. An article commemorating his career noted that "under Mr. Simon's guiding hand came more the subdued and sentimental architecture of the Italian Renaissance and Colonial;" the Federal Triangle office complex was the major project of his career (*The Federal Architect* January - March 1942:8 - 9). By the end of his career, though, stripped classicism had replaced traditional classicism as the recognized "official" Federal architecture.

The architect who succeeded Simon as Supervising Architect, George Howe, designed one of the first International Style buildings in the United States, the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society Office Building (1931). Howe had been a member of the 1939 jury judging the entries for a new Smithsonian Institution building on the Mall; the jury, which was seen as heavily weighted with modernists, caused controversy by selecting decidedly modernistic designs as finalists. Louis Simon complained that the proposed building was out of character with the Washington he had spent his career shaping (Craig 1978:335). Howe's appointment to the highest government post

in architecture marked a shift in Federal architecture policy to modernism untouched by the lingering elements of "evolutions from other styles of architecture" seen in stripped classicism. However, the war effort halted most building activity other than temporary structures, preventing Howe from fully developing a new Federal design program.

FOB-4, while of similar plan and materials as FOB-3, has little remnant of the "official" stripped classical style. Like FOB-3, and the earlier Interior Buildings prototypes, the long projecting wings with open-ended courtyards provide light and ventilation to the offices along double-loaded corridors. Designed on a 20-foot module, the space within the wings could be varied infinitely, allowing for ready modification as needs and technologies changed. The long, low design, flat wall surface, and large metal-frame windows on the courtyard facades are reminiscent of early International Style office buildings in Germany during the 1930s, before tall office buildings became the hallmark of modernism. Intersecting, pure forms compose the entrance block; the concrete canopy reads as element inserted through the vertical piers and wall plane. Different articulation of wall and window indicate different functions, in keeping with the tenet of modernism that function determine form. For example, stairs are expressed by masonry towers or window columns and, on the courtyard elevations, change of window type indicates change of activity behind the window.

FOB-4 may be an early example of a Federally-designed office building in a purely modern idiom, without references to the traditional influences of classicism prevalent in official architecture for forty years. However, until a more thorough study is made of Federal-sponsored design of the 1940s and 1950s, providing information similar to what is known about Federal architecture in the 1920s and 1930s, the historical perspective necessary to evaluate the architectural significance of FOB-4 does not exist. The structure does not display the exceptional significance necessary to meet the criteria exception for properties which have achieved significance within the last 50 years.

PG 75A-24

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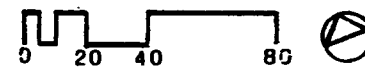
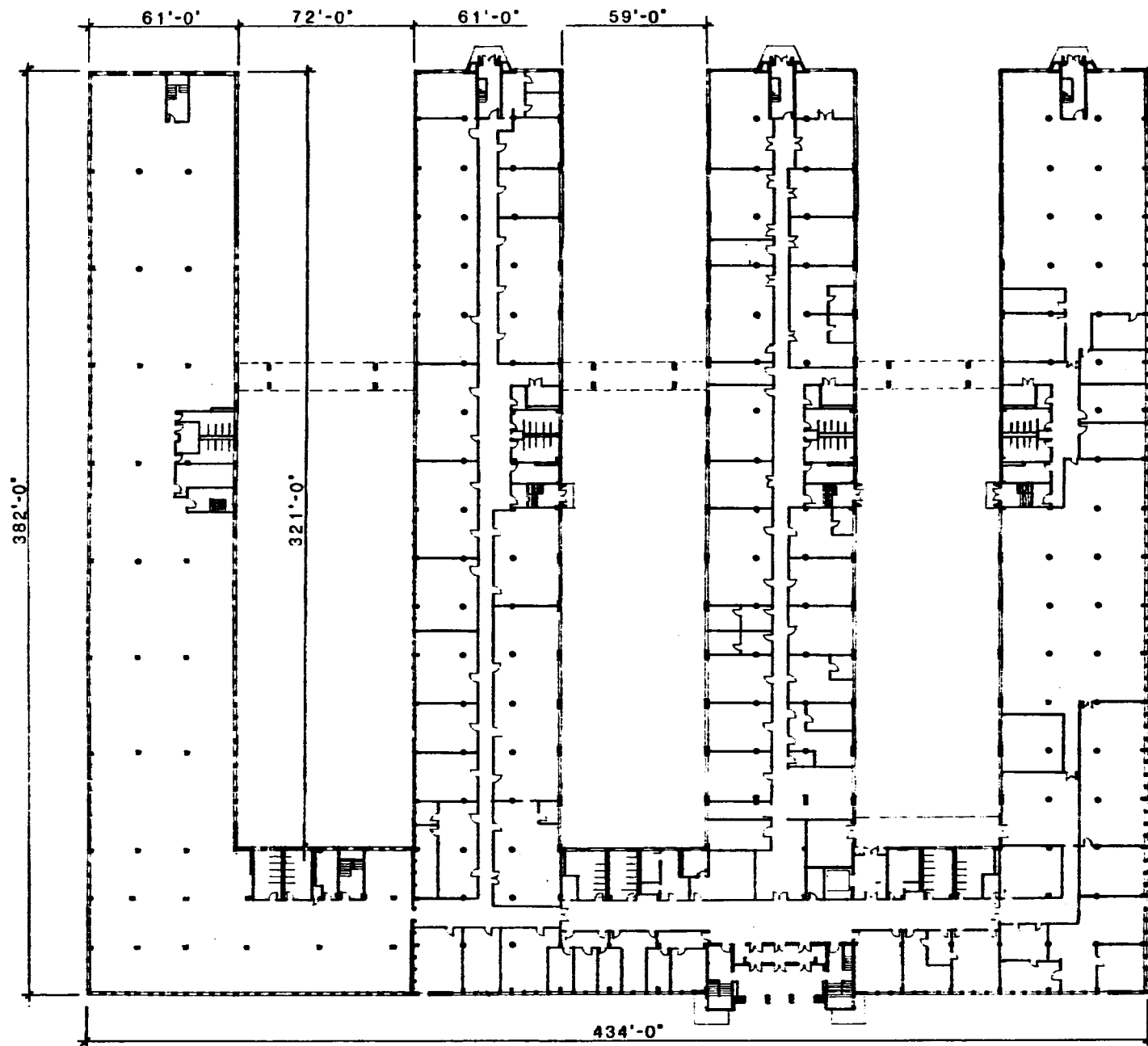
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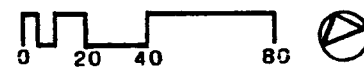
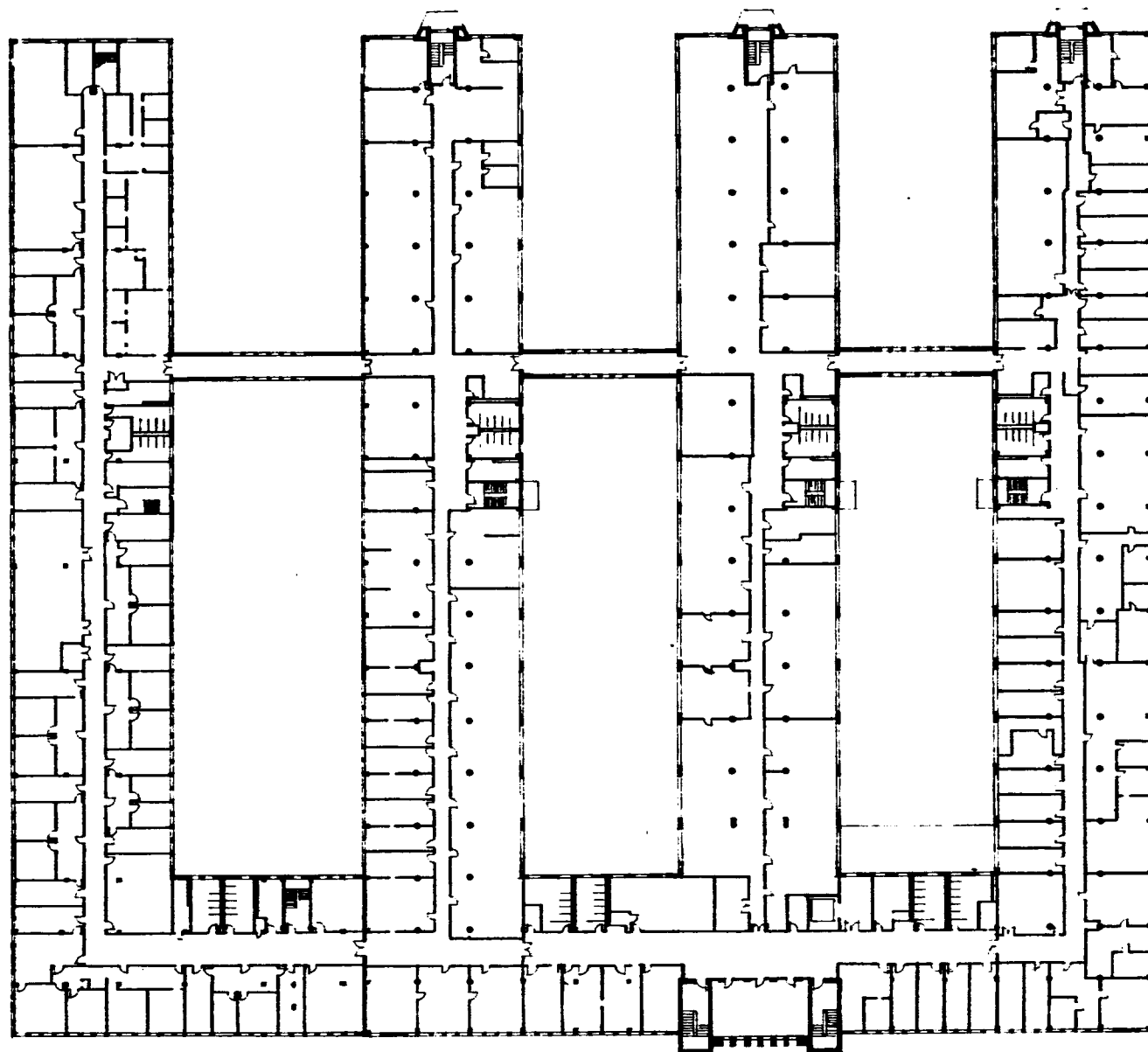


PG. 75A-24

FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING 4
 Suitland Federal Center
 Suitland, Maryland

First Floor Plan
 Drawn in 1945

Ward Hall Associates AIA

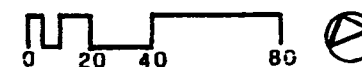
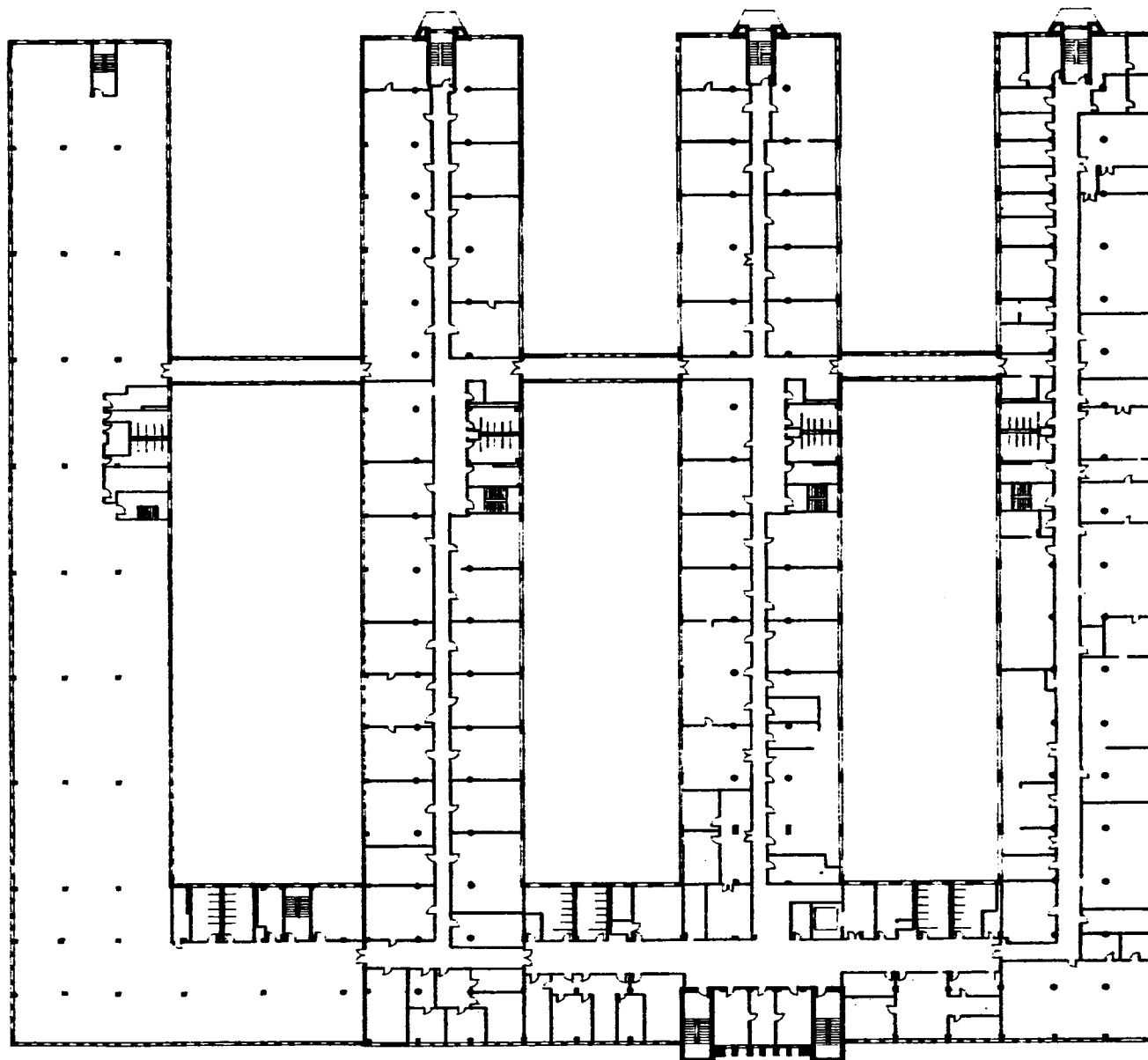


PG. 75A-24

FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING 4
Suitland Federal Center
Suitland, Maryland

Second Floor Plan
Drawn in 1945

Ward & Hall Associates AIA



PG: 75A-24

FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING 4
Suitland Federal Center
Suitland, Maryland

Third Floor Plan
Drawn in 1945

Ward Hall Associates AIA

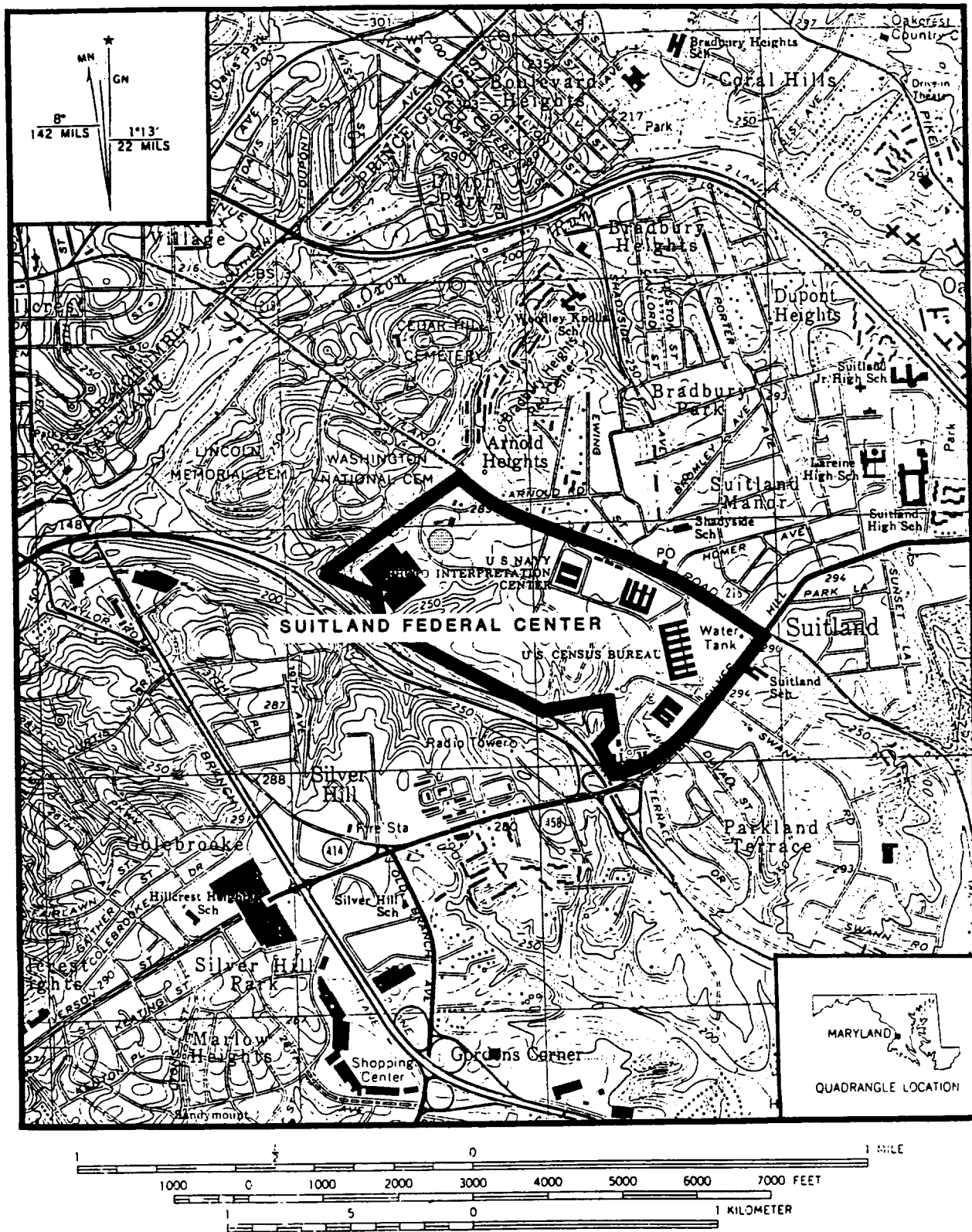


Figure 2. Section of the USGS 7.5' Anacostia, Maryland Quadrangle, showing the location of the project area

**DEPARTMENT
OF
COMMERCE**

**BUREAU OF THE
CENSUS
NATIONAL OCEANIC
AND ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION**

**WATER, WIND, AND
WAVE SURVEILLANCE**



LG: 75A.24

F.O.B. # 4 - SUTLAND FEDERAL CTR.

SUTLAND, MD - PRINCE GEORGES CO.

PHOTO. — KAREN SCHNEEBaum

MAY, 1991

NEGATIVE w/ WARD/HALL ASSOC.

12011 LEE JACKSON MEM. HIGHWAY

FAIRFAX, VA. 22033

VIEW — MAIN ENTRANCE



75A-24

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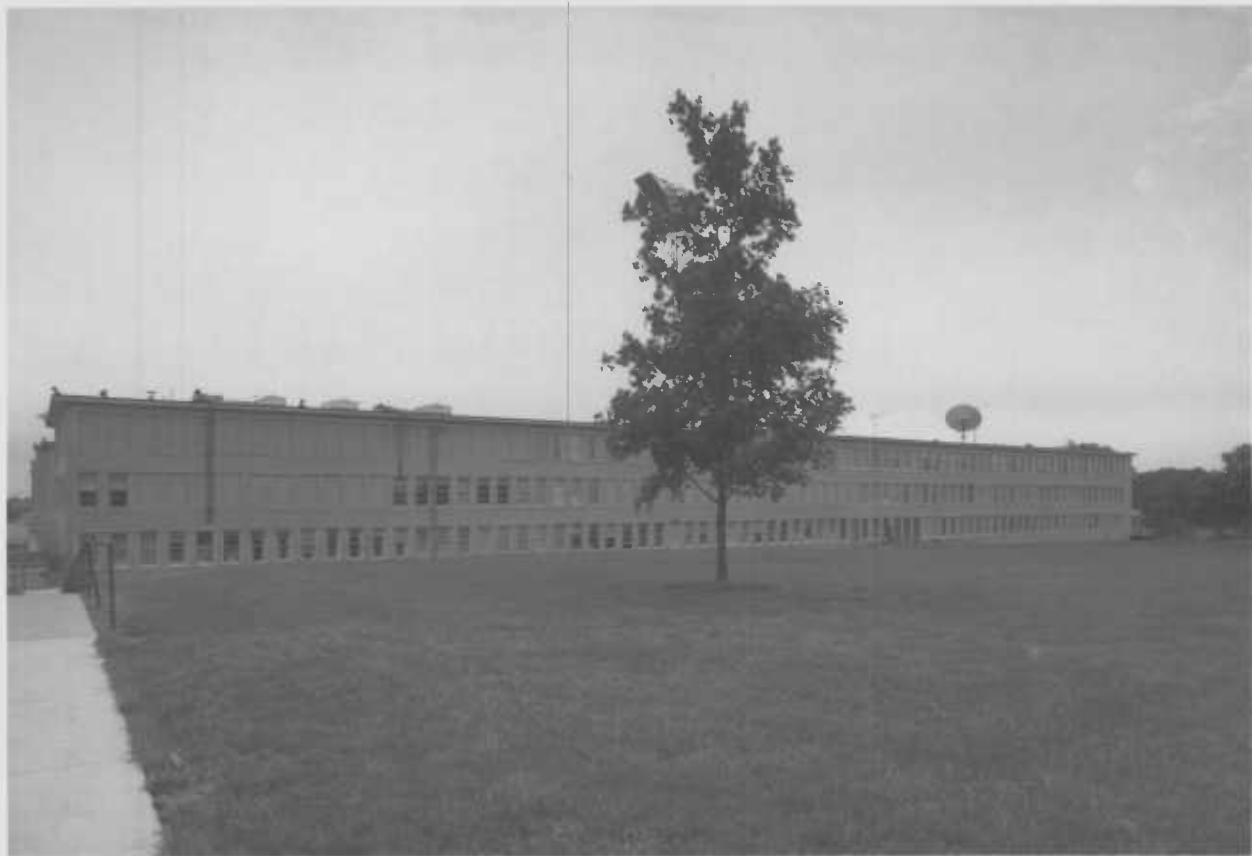
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VIEW — NORTH FACADE



PG 15A-24

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SUITLAND, MD. — PRINCE GEORGES CO.

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MAY, 1991

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VIEW — N.W. FACADE



PG. 7A-24

F.O.B. # 4 - SUITLAND FEDERAL CTR.
SUITLAND, MD. - PRINCE GEORGES CO.

PHOTO — KAREN SCHNEEBaum

MAY, 1991

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FAIRFAX, VA. 22033

VIEW — S.E. FACADE



PG: 75A-24

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SUTLAND, MD. - PRINCE GEORGES, ~~PR~~ CO.

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MAY, 1991

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VIEW — S.W. FACADE



PG 75A-24

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PHOTO. — KAREN SCHNEEBaum
MAY, 1991

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FAIRFAX VA. 22033

VIEW - INTERIOR, 1ST FLR. LOBBY



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SUTLAND, MD. - PRINCE GEORGES CO.

PHOTO. — KAREN SCHNEEBBAUM

MAY, 1991

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VIEW — TYPICAL CORRIDOR